(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) since its inception have received representations for the inclusion of Tarkhan, Julaha, Ansari (other then those included in the list of Scheduled Castes) and Khatri castes/communities in the Central List of Backward Classes for Himachal Pradesh. The castes/communities Tarkhan, Julaha, Ansari (other then those included in the list of SCs) have already been included the Central List of OBCs for Himachal Pradesh *vide* Gazette Notification No. 71 dated 04-04-2000. The NCBC has rejected the proposal to include 'Khatri' caste/community in the Central List of OBCs for Himachal Pradesh as it is not a socially backward but socially advanced community in the State. The Government has accepted this advise of the Commission.

Survey of street children

560. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Administration has decided to conduct a detailed survey of street children to identify problem areas and seek help on the basis of credible data;

(b) if so, whether the survey will focus on children who have connections with their families but spent most of their time on the streets; those who find themselves on Delhi's roads because of a fragile relationship with their families and the homeless ones;

(c) whether any report has been submitted by them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of NCT of Delhi has decided to

conduct a detailed survey of street children not only to identify the problem areas but also to develop strategies and programmes for their upliftment and rehabilitation. The survey will focus on all kind of children on the streets and off the streets, having homes or homeless.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) to (e) Do not arise.

Dhobi community as SC in Madhya Pradesh

561. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dhobi community is considered as Scheduled Caste in three districts of Madhya Pradesh only and not in the whole of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the names of such districts and reasons for such discrimination keeping in view that Dhobi caste fulfills all the requirements laid down for the purpose;

(c) the steps Government propose to take or have taken to end such discrimination;

(d) by when the community is likely to be declared as SC in the whole State;

(e) whether Government have received representation in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (f) Dhobi community is listed as Scheduled Caste in Bhopal, Raisen and Sehore districts in Madhya Pradesh. The community has been notified as Scheduled Caste only in these three districts as it fulfilled the criteria for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes. The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had sent a proposal for the inclusion of Dhobi community in the whole of Madhya Pradesh, but it lacked the required ethnographic information. The State Government has been requested to